

OUT & About



The Pacific Region
Outreach Newsletter



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Upcoming Themes:

Spring — Public Use

Summer — Water

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Winter — Elected Officials

Finding the Perfect Funder

Get advice and learn about great grant sources

By Tina Proctor

Often I get a phone call that starts, "Tina, could you please send me a list of funders that would be interested in giving me a grant for a recovery plan for a Preble's meadow jumping mouse?"

"No," I answer, "but I can tell you how to start your own search. Every project is different, based on the partners and project location."

Don't expect to get funds from an outside source for a Fish and Wildlife Service project that lacks partners. You almost always need to partner with other agencies and nonprofits to be considered. In fact, many foundations only give grants to nonprofit organizations, so you will often need to find a non-profit partner to sponsor the grant and be the grant recipient.

An important key to success is to send your proposals to funders who are interested in the kind of project you are doing and willing to give grants in your geographic area. In preparing a grant proposal, you may

need to spend 50 percent of your time searching for appropriate funders. Don't take this task lightly: It is a critical part of the process.

THE FOUNDATION CENTER

Start by visiting a library with resources from The Foundation Center. Each state has two or more of these grant resource libraries. To find a library near you go to www.fdncenter.org and click on cooperating collections. Although there is increasingly more information on the Internet, many foundations can *only* be located by looking through directories of grantmakers found in these libraries.

GOVERNMENT SOURCES

To find government funders, go to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at www.aspe.os.dhhs.gov/cfda. This catalog, published in June and December, has all 1,425

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Grant Tips from NFWF

Regional director shares the art and science of success

By Krystyna Wolniakowski

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), established as a grant-making foundation by Congress in 1984, is one of the largest nonprofit foundations in the country to support community-based conservation partnership programs.

NFWF manages its annual federal fund appropriations by leveraging twice as many nonfederal dollars for on-the-ground conservation projects. We do this through our own fundraising efforts and with grantees who "challenge" others to contribute funds and/or in kind services.

NFWF gave out its first challenge grant in 1986, when we awarded

\$490,405 for 15 grants. The Fish and Wildlife Service received eight of these grants.

Through successful partnerships and effective on-the-ground results the program has grown and in 2000, we awarded 670 grants valued at \$72,960,000. Since its inception, our grant program has provided over \$490 million for 4,400 grants!

The Service has continued to be our principal partner throughout this time, and has received \$55 million for nearly 500 grants for projects at more than 200 field stations, national wildlife refuges, and fish hatcheries.

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Turning Sweat into Dollars

Grants and NWR week event at Turnbull NWR

By Sandy Rancourt

Turnbull NWR celebrated National Wildlife Refuge Week with some community sweat. In one project 36 volunteers weeded and built rodent barriers around saplings to restore riparian habitat. In another at refuge headquarters, the Navy Seabees donated 70 hours to renovate a classroom, exhibit hall, and office space, and construct a bookstore for the Friends of Turnbull NWR.

Volunteers have donated 1,040 hours to the renovation project, to date. The Service has chipped in, too: The refuge and its Friends group received a \$20,000 challenge cost share grant to help with renovation expenses. **O**

Sandy Rancourt is a supervisory park ranger at Turnbull NWR.



Photo by: USFWS

Volunteers provide the sweat and a challenge cost share grant helps pay the way to complete refuge headquarters renovations.

Finding...

Continued from Page 1

government assistance programs, both financial and nonfinancial. The Environmental Protection Agency also has a good website that includes grant information and a grant writing tutorial at www.epa.gov

Be creative in your searches. Does your project have an educational component or will it have health benefits? Broaden your horizons to include departments other than Interior and Agriculture during your searches.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

A community foundation is a charitable organization set up to give grants to improve the quality of life in a specific geographic area. These local funders are a good resource for grant information and are worth getting to know.

To find the community foundations in your state, go to The Grantsmanship Center website at www.tgci.com and click on Community Foundations. Choose your state on the United States map that is pictured.

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Finding the right foundation among the 44,000 private foundations in the U.S. seems

like a daunting task. To begin visit www.environmentalgrants.com to learn how to order the Environmental Grantmaking Foundations Guide in print or CD-ROM. It currently profiles nearly 900 foundations that give environmental grants.

Also visit www.sonoran.org to access a free Internet searchable database that offers information on grant and technical assistance sources for community-based natural resource projects. Click on the Conservation Assistance Tools jigsaw puzzle at the bottom of the web page.

Be sure to check Resources on page 4 of this issue for other grant sources and funding information.

Once you have located a possible funder, get their grant guidelines and closely follow them. Be sure to show how your proposal meets their objectives.

Remember, by law they have to give their money away — so it might as well be to you! **O**

Tina Proctor is the partnerships coordinator in Region 6.

"The refuge and its Friends group received a \$20,000 challenge cost share grant. ..."



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